

COURAGE OF JIM KELLY

By Martin Aston

Some official recognition should be given to South Coast captain coach Jim Kelly for the courage which he showed during last Sunday's ugly riot which resulted in a Cup match being abandoned.

More than 100 screaming Pan Hellenic supporters invaded the field and attacked referee Frank Ellerts and the South Coast players in an incident which led to a Sydney newspaper publishing an editorial condemning the code.

The spectator who led the rush raced straight to Kelly and struck him a stinging blow in the face.

But there was no thought of retaliation in Kelly's mind as he was kicked and punched as he struggled through the fighting players, officials and spectators to get Ellerts to safety.

No other player took such action to protect Ellert, as he was kicked and punched after being knocked to the ground.

The incident was sickening and barbaric and the behaviour of the spectators involved was so cowardly that I felt ashamed to be associated with the code.

The incident made front page headlines in every newspaper in Sydney and is certain to turn many people away from the game.



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J.U.S.T.'s star inside forward Vero Mladenovic returned home recently from a four month holiday in Yugoslavia.

And he kept his "hand" in at Soccer with a few practice games with his old club OFK Belgrade.

"They wanted me to stay, but I had promised J.U.S.T. I would come back," he said.

Vero, 31-year-old economics undergraduate from Belgrade university, went home to see his family and friends. "I felt a little homesick after 2½ years in Australia," he said.

But he had no desire to stay in Yugoslavia. He finds life in Australia "pretty good."

Solid, good-looking Vero denied there was any romantic attachment to his trip home.

He had a holiday — and became a talent scout

"It was just a holiday," he said.

Vero said that Soccer had deteriorated in Yugoslavia in the time he had been away. He said the standard had slipped all over Europe, judging by matches he saw on television.

"The only country that seems to be kicking on is England," Vero said.

He said that one trend he had noticed in Europe nowadays was that clubs regarded players of around 26 "over the hill". The emphasis was on youth — with little regard for a player's experience.

Vero did a recruiting job for J.U.S.T. on his holiday. He picked out

three players to fill gaps in the Footscray team — and from all accounts they are top players.

Vero is fit and looking forward to another good year with J.U.S.T. He hopes to recapture the form that has made him a top Victorian player in the past two years.

Vero is a technical assistant in a laboratory at Monsanto.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TO START 1967

By MARTIN ASTON

The proposed Australia-wide National League competition will start in 1967 "if conditions are suitable".

This was decided as a compromise after extensive lobbying between officials from the various States at last weekend's annual general meeting in Sydney of the Australian Soccer Federation.

A motion from Victoria that any suggestion of a National League should be postponed for three years was defeated as was a move from N.S.W. to have such a competition start next year.

All of the delegates were unanimous in agreeing that such a competition had to come but representatives from Queensland, Northern N.S.W., South Australia and Western Australia joined with Victoria in claiming that the code was not yet ready for it.

"We all feel that it has to come ... but only on a basis which is sound and workable," said Northern N.S.W. president Mr. Sam Delves.

The Queensland president Mr. Ian Brusasco said: "With more time to re-organise, Queensland could enter a team in the National League in the hope that in five years we would be ready for another one."

When N.S.W. representative Mr. Walker Sternberg saw which way the discussion was going he was heard to remark to N.S.W. president Mr. Ben Nathan: "We will have to compromise."

"The financial aspect of a National League must be gone into very carefully ... mark you, these are wise words," said Victoria's Mr. John Oliphant in a speech in which he was interrupted on several occasions by interjectors.

• Continued from Page 1

Most in the 'red'

It is quite obvious, too, that Melbourne cannot support 12 State League teams. Nearly every club is in the "red" and relies on a handful of generous supporters to balance the budgets.

The fact that they have to rely on club benefactors and an occasional Sunday game at Olympic Park proves that the present system is a complete and utter failure.

Soccer officials must now sit down and:

1. Work out a new formula for running the game in Melbourne with emphasis on catering for the public first and clubs second.
2. Ensure that a fiasco like last weekend is not repeated. If it is, then you can say "goodnight" to Soccer in Victoria.

• See "the good old days" — Page 5.

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Victorian Soccer Federation

Applications are invited for the position of Secretary of the Victorian Soccer Federation at a salary commensurate with ability and experience.

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Lions - a team of battlers

By JIM COOK

Lions have always been a club of battlers. But slowly and surely they have climbed their way up the Victorian Soccer ladder and are now sitting happily — if a little precariously — on the top rung.

It is a far cry from the day in 1950 when the club was founded. The road to the top has been tough.

Lions began in the fourth division. Their aim was always the State League, and they achieved it in 1960.

Their record in the State League has not been spectacular, but they have made their presence felt in those few years, and have caused upsets to many of the more fashionable teams.

Always they have been a close-knit team, friendly team, and what they have missed out in State League honors they have more than made up with in the sheer enjoyment of just playing the game.

SOCIAL

Their social functions are something not to be missed. They always make visitors welcome in an atmosphere of courtesy and cordiality.

The Lions club was the idea of many Ukrainian migrants who came to Australia in the years after the Second World War.

It began as the Ukraine Sports Club and two years later — in 1952 — changed its name to Lions.

First club president was Mr. M. Osidacz, whose hard work was later rewarded with a life membership.

Another hard worker for the club has been Wally Wirt, who was secretary for many years.

Early players who helped the club climb from the lowly fourth division to State League were R. Karpo, W. Bushtedt, O. Shrey, W. Kneifel and S. Pleckon, who was player-coach in their first division days and who also played for Polonia and Victoria.

In their three full seasons in the State League, Lions finished 11th, 8th and 10th. In the 1964 Ampol Cup competition they reached the final only to be beaten by Polonia.

They have found the road to success hard. But in their determination to retain their State League status they were hampered by a long-standing ambition — to have their own ground.

With valuable assistance from the Essendon City Council, considerable financial assistance from their management and supporters plus a load of hard work they succeeded. Lions opened their new and trim enclosure with its good dressing-room facilities at Montgomery Park last year.

LEADERS

Over the years, since their formation two other officials warrant mention — M. Makohon and C. Geryk. Both played leading parts in the formation of the club.

Recent efforts by the management have brought many new players to the club. But at this stage it's too early to predict what influence they will have on the senior side. Players who are considered in the first team squad are:

D. Voigt, I. Fallon, J. Marth, A. Kruike, R. McLachlan, F. Kleinert, A. Schwartz, S. Walker, R.

Sharp, H. Moore, G. Watson, K. Beinroth, M. de Vyckere, D. Wilson, M. Schumacher, T. Baxter and N. Bevis.

Two outstanding juniors of which the management expect big things from are: S. Podoiczak and M. Starczak.

UNLUCKY

Few players have made Victorian honors in the club, but perhaps the most unlucky player from this view point has been goalkeeper Dieter Voigt. He is the most underestimated goalie in State League and his performances in the past are worthy of State selection.

Present player-coach Mike de Bruyckere is a wily veteran. He was capped seven times for Holland and has represented Australia and Victoria. He has played with Wilhelmina and has coached Melbourne and is well-liked and respected by the players and officials of the club.

Bobby McLachlan has been one of the strongest players in recent years. He has had good support from Joe Marth, Fred Kleinert, Graham Watson, Kurt Beinroth and Franz Schwarz.

Although the Ukrainian community in Australia is small in comparison with those representing several other countries, such as Britain, Scotland, Malta, Italy and Holland, they have established many sports clubs in various States of Australia.

Ukrainian supporters keenly follow sport promoted in their community, and this applies to table tennis, athletics, volleyball and other sports as well as soccer.

Supporters are not concerned as to which country the players in the team come from. What matters is that

they should play cleanly, try hard, achieve something worthwhile and do nothing to change the constitutional rights of the club enjoyed by the Ukrainian community.

Officials and management committee members for this season are:—

President: T. Shownik: Ukrainian, company director, who also serves as the club's councillor on the State Federation. He is a competent leader, and is married with a family.

Vice-president: Mr. George Boluch, married with a family. He is a manufacturer. George has held office as president and with his brother, has experienced the ups and downs of the club. Whenever "up", he remains active to achieve even better results.

KEEN

Secretary: John Vandelo, company director, a councillor of the Asthma Foundation of Victoria, and life member of the Royal Women's Hospital and of two other charitable organisations, is a former Soccer coach, Soccer referee and PT instructor who is also well known at Fergie Speakman's pro runners' stable.

John was once a "Rules" player, and a football club president.

John's address is 159 Wheatshaf Rd., phone 306 8097 (after hours 306 9115).

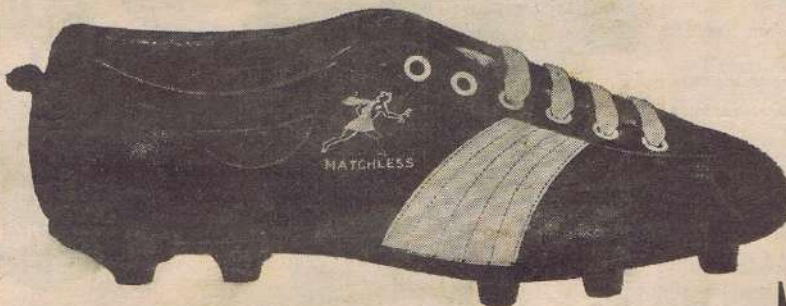
Treasurer: Mr. Denis Pyrohiv, an accountant with a very large car manufacturing plant. He is married, with a family.

Team men: Mr. Stan Plekan (Seniors) and Mr. Alex Holenberger (Reserves) are keen workers, strict but always fair. Mr. Bob Hura (Under 20 team) and Mr. Kvas (Under 14), also contribute to the club's future which rests with the juniors.



One of the Lions outstanding players over the years has been goalkeeper Dieter Voigt. He is unlucky not to have made the Victorian side.

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Will we see a crowd like this again?



THIS WAS the scene at Olympic Park three years ago when George Cross played South Melbourne Hellas in a League game. More than 23,000 fans saw this match — a record in Australia. Nowadays you would be lucky to get a crowd of 10,000 at such a clash. Why? The answer lies with the administrators of the game.

AND ACTION LIKE THIS...



A LOT of the action and color has gone out of the game in the past two years. Scenes like this that kept fans roaring from almost start to finish are few and far between. The game lacks a colorful personality who can be a crowd-drawer. Soccer badly needs a Ron Barassi. The spectacular action above involves former Hellas centre-forward Andonni Hatzeltheriou and the Juventus goalkeeper.

• Next Week —
The Juventus Story

BIG CUP FINAL IS ON

By JIM COOK

The 1965 F.A. Cup Final takes place at Wembley Stadium on Saturday afternoon when Leeds plays Liverpool.

The F.A. Cup may not be the most valuable Cup in the world (it only cost £50 when purchased in 1911), but it is certainly one of the most famous Cup finals.

This wasn't the first Cup, however. The Cup competition itself started in 1872. Fifteen clubs entered and contributed £1 each towards the cost of the trophy. The F.A. made up the balance and the first Cup cost £20.

It was only about half the size of the present one and no-one was very keen to win it. Two of the

original entrants dropped out before the first round.

They couldn't afford to play.

In 1895 a second trophy was bought. The Cup had been won that year by Aston Villa who put it on show in a shop window. A smash and grab raider pinched it and the original Cup was never seen again.

The second trophy cost £25 and lasted until 1911 when it was presented to Lord Kinnaird the F.A. President, who had previously won five Cup medals.

This meant a third F.A. Cup — a bigger and much more imposing trophy. It

was made by a Bradford firm and the first winners were Bradford City.

Nowadays the Cup is the biggest prize in top class Soccer.

Less than 2000 saw the first Cup Final in 1872 and most of those objected to the shilling admission fee! How different from modern finals at Wembley where 100,000 attend and the gross gate receipts nearly reach six figures.

Add the many thousands taken at the earlier rounds and semi-finals and you realise there's a fortune in the F.A. Cup for the winners.

The likely line-ups for

the big day at Wembley are—

Liverpool: Lawrence, Lawler, Byrne, Milne, Yeats, Stevenson, Callaghan, Hunt, St. John, Smith, Thompson.

Leeds United: Sprake, Bell, Reaney, Bremner, Charlton, Hunter, Giles, Weston, Storrer, Collins, Johansson.

Last year's winners were West Ham United, who defeated Preston North End 3-2.

Footnote: The usual radio commentary direct from Wembley is likely to be relayed from 3LO around midnight on Saturday, May 1. Check on your radio programs for that week.

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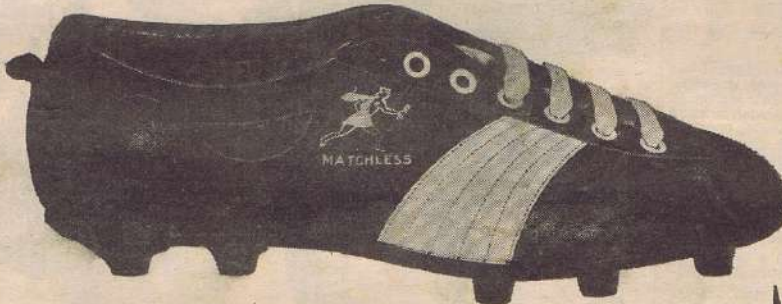
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